

### **Statement of University of California President Richard Atkinson to all national laboratory employees**

Vice President of Laboratory Management John P. McTague, who has served in that position since the University created the position in 2001 to help strengthen the oversight and management of the three national laboratories UC manages for the U.S. Department of Energy and its National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), has informed me of his desire to return to UC Santa Barbara, where he is a professor of materials.

John's leadership and private sector experience have led to strong improvements in the management and oversight of the laboratories in a number of key areas including security, safety and business efficiency. Under his leadership, for example, UC engaged industrial firms to obtain important expertise in security and project management to first reassess, and then strengthen the labs' internal systems in these areas.

John's decision to leave his position comes a month after the National Nuclear Security Administration completed a focused two-year review of the University's contract in five specific areas: Management Accountability, Safety and Security, Facilities Safety, Project Management and Critical Skills (skilled work force retention). The University received the highest performance rating possible from the NNSA in all categories. Additionally, the labs consistently receive outstanding rankings from NNSA for the quality of their science and technology programs.

To his additional credit, John has been a leading voice reminding all of us of the critical importance of the scientific mission of the men and women working in the laboratories.

While I am pleased with our progress, the University will continue to pursue every opportunity to strengthen our management performance of these important national science and technology assets. Therefore, the appointment of a successor will have my highest priority. John's resignation is effective with the appointment of a new vice president.